Supporting Information

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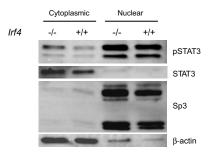


Fig. S1. IL-21 plus TGF β induces normal pSTAT3 translocation in $Irf4^{-/-}$ Th cells. Immunoblot of pSTAT3, total STAT3, and β -actin or Sp3 in nuclear and cytoplasmic extracts prepared from naïve $Irf4^{-/-}$ or WT CD4⁺ cells differentiated for 48 h in the presence of IL-21 plus TGF β . The quality of $Irf4^{-/-}$ and WT nuclear and cytoplasmic protein preparations was verified by blotting for the nuclear transcription factor Sp3 and the cytoplasmic protein β -actin, respectively. Representative data from three experiments are shown.

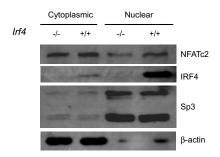


Fig. S2. IL-21 plus TGF β induces normal NFATc2 translocation in *Irf4*^{-/-} Th cells. Immunoblot of NFATc2, β -actin, Sp3, or IRF4 in nuclear and cytoplasmic extracts prepared from naïve *Irf4*^{-/-} or WT CD4⁺ cells differentiated for 48 h in the presence of IL-21 plus TGF β . Representative data from three experiments are shown.

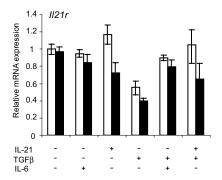


Fig. S3. Normal IL-21R mRNA expression in Irf4^{-/-} Th cells. Real-time RT-PCR for Ill21r in naïve Irf4^{-/-} (filled columns) or WT (open columns) CD4⁺ cells cultured for 48 h under the indicated conditions. Primers for Ill21r are as follows: forward, 5'-tgtcaatgtgacggaccagt-3'; reverse, 5'-aacgtgactgtggccttct-3'. The expression level in WT cells under Th0 conditions was set to 1. Data (±SD) represent duplicate determinations. Representative data from three experiments are shown.